

the church of St. John and St. Paul, the nave has greater length, but the plan is still Greek. Subsequently, we find that the Gothic style, which prevailed in Italy during the 13th and 14th centuries, had considerable influence in Venice, but it must be confessed that the buildings in which it was used display little of that elegance observable in other parts of Europe, or even in other cities of Italy. The "Casa d'Oro" has gothic forms and arches, but has horizontal lines. The external elevations of the Ducal Palace were in the main gothic, but had many peculiarities assimilating them to the buildings of Lombardy. Much beautiful carving is observable about the capitals of the columns. The Porta della Carta, the gate of entrance to the Ducal Palace, belongs to the 15th century; it is still gothic, but has a square-headed door, apparently of the same date. The arch in front of the Giant's Stairs, in the same building, has some curious pinnacles. In the Palazzo Foscari, horizontal lines prevail along with gothic features; and in the Palazzo Pisani there is the same character, with the addition of quoins, and a rusticated basement. The influence of gothic taste did not last longer in Venice than in other parts of Italy, and before the close of the 15th century, Italian architecture was the only style in use. In the 16th century, the talents of some of the most celebrated architects were called into play during a temporary state of tranquillity, and Sammicheli, Palladio, Antonio da Ponte, and Scamozzi, left the most remarkable buildings of Venice; whilst in painting we find the names of Titian, Giorgione, Paolo Veronese, and Tintoretto. The Florentine Sansovino erected the mint, the library of St. Marc, and the *Procuratie Nuove*, and sculptured the statues of Mars and Neptune, emblems of the military and naval power of Venice, which still stand at the Giant's Stairs.

The style of this period, though corresponding with that of the most important buildings in Rome, Vicenza, and elsewhere, had some local peculiarities, even in the hands of architects, who had practised in other cities.

One of these was the extraordinary proportion, which windows and clear openings bore to the general front. Indeed, it might seem that much more light was sought than would be desirable, even where the front was towards some narrow canal or street, but the peculiar feature is equally observable in palaces upon the grand canal, where light would be attainable in abundance. It has been suggested, that this quantity of light was necessary to the effective arrangement of the numerous private festivals in this city of gaiety and wealth, but we cannot understand the force of the argument. We would venture the opinion, that the preponderance of voids over solids was a precaution suggested by the questionable nature of the foundation; or perhaps it may be suggested, that as locomotion had its difficulties and drawbacks, it was necessary to provide a good view of the scene without, from the apartments. The Palazzo Grimani was the work of Sammicheli, and displays the features alluded to. The arrangement of the cornice, in which height was given to the frieze, that member having windows and decorations, first practised by Peruzzi, was employed in the library at Venice by Sansovino. That beautiful building is of two orders in height, the columns being coupled transversely in the thickness of the wall, and the upper entablature proportioned to the whole building. In the intercolumns we find the Venetian window. The art of sculpture—at this period—contributed to the perfection of architecture, and to render the buildings of Venice especially remarkable amongst those of Italy. The extent of window-opening noticeable in palaces is not found in churches, which is an argument for the propriety of the view, last-mentioned above. Most of the churches were of a date, earlier than the palaces, and in their details are many singular points for notice. Sometimes the fascia was inclined in an exaggerated degree, and the patera of the Doric order was often mitred at the angle. The fronts had often no other opening but the door, and had frequently inscriptions and projecting panelling. The church of Santa Maria della Salute has the circular plan often employed at Venice, and a larger and smaller dome having a fine effect from all points of view. The thrust of the dome is resisted by a number

of large scroll buttresses, upon each of which is a statue, giving the building a peculiar but pleasing effect. In the gate of the arsenal, the singular use of an angular modillion is found.

We cannot do better than advise all, who are interested in the history of Italian architecture not to confine their attention to the graphic part of this fine work. The future state of Venice promises to be more prosperous than her late history, and the junction of the city to the mainland, by the viaduct of a railway, will probably effect a great change in her condition. Let us hope, however, that such change will not obliterate the records of the past, records which have prompted the poetry of Byron, and afforded materials for the dramas of Shakespeare. E. H.

CUTTING INTO CHIMNEYS.

AWARD UNDER BUILDINGS ACT, AND MODIFICATION OF A CLAUSE.

THE following clause in schedule F. has occasioned some embarrassment.

"*Cuttings into Chimneys.*—And as to every chimney-shaft, jamb, breast, or flue already built, or which shall be hereafter built, in reference to cutting the same, no such erection shall be cut into for any other purpose than the repair thereof, or for the formation of soot-doors, or for letting in, removing, or altering stove-pipes or smoke-jacks, except as directed for building an external wall against an old sound party-wall."

This has been held to prevent an owner from enlarging his room by the removal of a chimney-breast against an internal wall even, unless he also took down the breast above, although the latter could have been securely supported without difficulty. The referees, by the following award, recognize the hardship of the enactment, and shew the considerate view which they propose to take of it.

We give first the surveyor's application to the referees on the subject, and his notice to the builder.

District of Saint John, Saint Thomas, and Saint Olave, Southwark, and Saint Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey.

12, Bermondsey-square, April 24th, 1845.

Sir,—I hereby request the determination of the official referees as to the following matters, concerning which, difference has arisen between the builder of the under-mentioned works and myself.

Mr. Henry Horlock, of 11, Augusta-row, Spa-road, builder, has cut into, and cut away certain chimney-jambs, breasts, and flues, for other purposes than those allowed by the above Act.

Previously to the commencement of the works hereafter mentioned, a certain stack of chimneys existed back to back in an internal wall of a certain house, situate and being No. 3, Grange-road, in the occupation of Mr. Teversham, and was built from the foundations which are below the surface of the basement floor upwards.

The whole or greater part of so much of the said stack as extended through the ground story has been cut away, and the upper part of the stack is now supported upon a breast-sumner and two iron columns based upon the part of the stack still remaining in the basement story.

The notice of irregularities, of which a copy is hereto appended, was duly served on the builder, and the first-mentioned irregularity has not hitherto been amended.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT HESKETH.

"To the registrar of Metropolitan Buildings.

(Copy.)

To Mr. Henry Horlock, of 11, Augusta-row, Spa-road, builder, or, to the foreman or principal workman on the premises hereunder mentioned.

I do hereby give you notice, that the building operations now in progress under your superintendence, situate at Mr. Teversham's house, Star-corner, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, are not conformable to the statute in the portions thereof under mentioned; and I require you within forty-eight hours from the date hereof, to amend the same.—April 16th, 1845.

IRREGULARITIES REFERRED TO.

Certain chimney-breasts, jambs, and flues, having been cut into for other purposes than those allowed by the said Act; and certain timber being placed under the chimney openings, so that the same is, or will be within 18 inches of the surface of the hearth.

ROBERT HESKETH, District Surveyor.
12, Bermondsey-square."

The following is the award:—

With regard to the house in the occupation of Mr. Teversham, situate and being No. 3, Grange-road, in the district of St. John, St. Thomas and St. Olave, Southwark, and St. Mary-Magdalen, Bermondsey, within the limits of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 84.

Whereas the official referees of metropolitan buildings, duly appointed in pursuance of the said Act, have received and duly considered the information of Robert Hesketh, the surveyor of the said district, against Henry Horlock, relative to certain works done by him at the said house, dated the 24th day of April, 1845, containing a copy of the notice of irregularity, from the said Robert Hesketh to the said Henry Horlock, a copy whereof is hereto annexed.

And whereas on the 13th day of May inst. the said official referees did duly hear the said Robert Hesketh and Henry Horlock touching the matters of the said information, and did also proceed to view the said premises.

Now, inasmuch as the works in question have been securely done and are not dangerous as regards fire, and are entirely within the same premises, we the said official referees make no award thereon.

And with regard to the costs and expenses attending this proceeding, we do hereby award that the same be paid by the said Henry Horlock, that is to say.

First, as to the fees and expenses of the office of metropolitan buildings, that on or before the 3rd day of June, 1845, the sum of 2*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* be paid to the registrar of metropolitan buildings at the said office at No. 3, Trافلgar-square, London.

Secondly, as to the costs and expenses of the said Robert Hesketh, as such surveyor as aforesaid, that on or before the said 3rd day of June, 1845, the sum of 1*l.* 1*s.* be paid to the said Robert Hesketh, at his office, No. 12, Bermondsey-square, or to the said registrar at the office aforesaid.

In witness whereof, we, the said official referees, have to this our award on two pages of foolscap paper, set our hands this 26th day of May, 1845. (Signed)

JAS. W. HIGGINS. } Off. Ref.
WILLIAM HOSKING. }

ARNOTT'S VENTILATING VALVE.

The clause above referred to prevented the insertion even of the ventilating valve, and the referees accordingly obtained a modification of it, as is set forth in the following document:—

"To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting. Whereas by an Act of Parliament passed in the 7th and 8th year of the reign of her Majesty, entitled "An Act for regulating the construction and the use of buildings in the metropolis and its neighbourhood," after reciting that for the purpose of preventing the express provisions of the said Act from hindering the adoption of improvements, and of providing for the adoption of expedients either better or equally well adapted to accomplish the purposes thereof, it was enacted with regard to every building of whatever class, so far as related to the modification of any rules thereby prescribed, that if in the opinion of the official referees the rules by the Act now in recital imposed should be inapplicable or would defeat the objects of such Act, and that by the adoption of any modification of such rules such objects would be attained either better or as effectually, it should be the duty of such official referees to report their opinion thereon, stating the grounds of such their opinion to the commissioners of works and buildings; and that if on the investigation thereof it should appear to the said commissioners that such opinion was well-founded, then it should be lawful for the said commissioners, or any two of them, to direct that such modification might be made in such rules as would in their opinion give effect to the pur-